



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 223-6846

April 1, 1980

RADM J.O. Tuttle, USN  
Defense Intelligence Agency  
The Pentagon, 2D921  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Admiral Tuttle:

As I agreed to provide if available, enclosed is information relating to the "photograph" incident concerning MIA George MacDonald.


This is the individual being looked at as possibly the "Mac" reported by NAME.

NAME does not know that her son is being considered as possibly the POW reported sighted by NAME. She is in very frail health and, although determined and knowledgeable, she can ill afford unnecessary stressful situations.

The copy of NAME's letter is included as it pertains to the two Vietnamese defectors who reported the 38 American prisoners still in Vietnam. NAME was involved with this information via contact with a French official. He was unsuccessful in contacting the defectors but did obtain the biographical information provided by NAME.

The "tape" mentioned in her letter also concerns the "photograph" incident and is apparently in the possession of our Board Chairman, Earl Hopper. I have requested that he bring his tape to the upcoming Board meeting and will have a copy made for your use.

Sincerely,

  
Ann Mills Griffiths  
Executive Director

Enclosures

SUMMARY OF FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, MEXICO CITY NEWS CONFERENCE

OPENING STATEMENT - REV. PAUL LINDSTROM

THE PURPOSE OF TODAY'S NEWS CONFERENCE IS TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE RECEIVED LAST NIGHT FROM S.E. ASIANS INFORMATION WHICH PROVES THAT THERE ARE STILL POW'S BEING HELD BY THE PATHET LAO IN LAOS. DR. PHILIP BENNETT AND MYSELF HAVE TRAVELED TO MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, AND HAVE DONE MANY THINGS TO TRY AND SECURE INFORMATION CONCERNING POW'S IN S.E. ASIA. SPECIFICALLY WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING AN AIR FORCE NAVIGATOR, 1ST LT. GEORGE MACDONALD, WHO WAS DOWNED OVER LAOS IN 1972. WE LEARNED IN MEXICO CITY LAST YEAR (1973), FROM S.E. ASIAN COMMUNISTS, THAT MACDONALD WAS ALIVE AND, FOR A SUM OF MONEY, DEFINITE PROOF INCLUDING A PHOTO, FINGERPRINTS, AND A LETTER WOULD BE GIVEN TO US. I TOLD THESE S.E. ASIANS THAT WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO RAISE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT UNLESS WE WERE FIRST GIVEN SOME DEFINITE PROOF TO LOOK AT, SUCH AS A PHOTO, WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE IDENTIFICATION BY MRS. MACDONALD. WE WERE TOLD THAT IF SUCH WAS POSSIBLE WE WOULD BE CONTACTED.

IN JAN., 1974, I WAS ADVISED THAT ANOTHER MEETING WAS TO BE HELD TO FURTHER DISCUSS THIS MATTER. DR. BENNETT AND I FLEW TO ALGIERS, ALGERIA IN JAN. TO MEET WITH ASSOCIATES OF THOSE WHOM WE HAD MET IN MEXICO CITY IN 1973. WE WERE TOLD IN THAT MEETING THAT SOMETIME AFTER THE RELEASE OF EMMET KAY, WHO WAS THEN BEING HELD BY THE PATHET LAO, WE WOULD BE CONTACTED TO COME TO MEXICO CITY WITH MRS. MACDONALD, AT WHICH TIME A PHOTO WOULD BE SHOWN TO US, ALTHOUGH NOT GIVEN TO US, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PROOF TO ENABLE US TO RAISE THE MONEY INVOLVED. WE DO NOT KNOW WHY MR. KAY'S RELEASE WAS FIRST REQUIRED.

LAST THURSDAY, SEPT. 19, I RECEIVED WORD THAT MRS. MACDONALD, DR. BENNETT, AND I SHOULD COME TO MEXICO CITY WHERE A MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON THURSDAY NIGHT, SEPT. 26, AT A SPECIFIED LOCATION. WE FLEW TO MEXICO CITY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AND AT 9 P.M. LAST NIGHT WE MET WITH TWO S.E. ASIAN COMMUNISTS WHOM WE HAD NEVER MET BEFORE. WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE PHOTO THEY SHOWED US HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED FOR SHOWING BY THEIR GOVERNMENT, OR IF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE WORKING ONLY FOR THEIR OWN MONETARY WELL-BEING, BUT THE PHOTO, WHICH THEY SAID WAS TAKEN LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, DOES PROVE THAT GEORGE MACDONALD WAS ALIVE AS RECENTLY AS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. WE WERE TOLD THAT MACDONALD IS STILL ALIVE.

FOR A SPECIFIED SUM OF MONEY, WHICH HAS INCREASED SOMEWHAT SINCE 1973, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE PHOTO, FINGERPRINTS, AND A LETTER WRITTEN BY MACDONALD WITH STATEMENTS INCLUDED THAT WE HAVE REQUESTED, WILL BE PROVIDED US. WE WILL NOW RETURN TO ILLINOIS AND BEGIN TO DISCUSS WITH OTHERS WHAT WE SHOULD DO NEXT. WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE CAN GET THE PHOTO AND OTHER IDENTIFICATION THAT IT WILL HELP US TO FORCE THE FORD ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE SOME ACTION TO SECURE THE TERMS OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT. BUT, WE DO NOT LIKE THE THOUGHT OF PAYING MONEY TO COMMUNISTS. MUCH THOUGH AND PRAYERFUL CONCERN WILL BE GIVEN THIS MATTER.

SUMMARY OF REMARKS OF POW MOTHER, MRS. JEAN MACDONALD OF EVANSTON, ILLINOIS  
MOTHER OF 1ST LT. GEORGE D. MACDONALD, U.S.A.F.

THE PHOTO I SAW OF MY POW SON WAS GIVEN TO ME FOR PERUSAL FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT FIVE MINUTES BY 2 (TWO) ASIATICS.

THE TWO MEN TO THE LEFT IN THE PHOTO WERE ORIENTALS OF ABOUT THE SAME SIZE. MY SON WAS THE CENTER MAN IN THIS GROUP OF THREE CAUCASIANS AT THE RIGHT OF THE PHOTO. HAVING 8 (EIGHT) SONS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE THE SAME CRANIAL DISTINCTIONS (HIGH FOREHEAD AND WIDE CRANNIUM ABOVE THE EARS). GEORGE HAD FRIZZY HAIR THAT HAD GROWN LONG ABOVE THE TEMPLES AND BELOW THE EARS, AND ON THE CHIN, BUT HE HAD BECOME TOTALLY BALD WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SLIGHT FUZZ ON TOP. HIS ARMS WERE ABOUT THE MAN ON EITHER SIDE, AS IF HE NEEDED SUPPORT. YES - THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT - MY SON WAS IN THE PHOTO. ALSO THE SPARSENESS OF THE HAIR ON GEORGE'S CHEST AND HIS SHOULDER STRUCTURE IS UNDENIABLY GEORGE'S.

THE PHOTO WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ABOUT 3 MONTHS AGO. ALL THE MEN LOOKED HAGGARD AND MALNOURISHED (A SICKENING GAUNT LOOK).

I'M FULL OF EVERY KNOWN EMOTION - PAIN FOR THE MEN IN CAPTIVITY (ALIVE), THE REFUSAL OF THE COMMUNISTS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS, AND THE DO-NOTHINGNESS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

NEWS CONFERENCE CONCLUDING STATEMENT SUMMARY BY DR. PHILIP BENNETT

ON THE BASIS OF THIS NEW INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED, AS WELL AS THE WEALTH OF EXISTING INFORMATION, WE DEMAND THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATELY FORMULATE A PLAN AND THEN PROCEED TO FOLLOW IT IN ORDER TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN

WHO IS PRESENTLY BEING HELD BY THE COMMUNISTS. IT HAS BEEN PROVEN BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT THERE ARE THOSE MEN WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY VALIANTLY WHO ARE NOW BEING ALLOWED TO ROT AND DIE IN COMMUNIST PRISONS.

IT IS INCONSISTENT WITH ALL JUSTICE AND REASON THAT DRAFT-DODGERS AND DEERTERS ARE PRESENTLY BEING WELCOMED HOME WITH OPEN ARMS WHILE NOT A FINGER IS LIFTED TO AID THOSE WHO FOUGHT SO BRAVELY IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY.

SPEAKING FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEFENSE LEAGUE AS WELL AS LOVED-ONES OF THOSE THAT OUR NATION HAS BETRAYED, WE SOLEMNLY WARN THE FORD ADMINISTRATION THAT UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE, AND SOON, IT WILL FACE MASSIVE OUTCRIES OF PROTEST AND RAGE. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING THAT WE POSSIBLY CAN TO SEE THAT JUSTICE IS SECURED FOR THESE MEN. WE FULLY REALIZE THAT THIS WILL REQUIRE KISSINGER AND FORD TO FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO LIVE UP TO THEIR PEACE AGREEMENT. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT EVERY RESOURCE OF THE U.S. SHOULD BE USED TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE ASKED TO SERVE HER.

OUR PRAYER IS THAT OF DAVID OF OLD AS FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT PSALMS, "LET THE GIGHING OF THE PRISONER COME BEFORE THEE; ACCORDING TO THE GREATNESS OF THY POWER ~~PRESENCE~~ THOU THOSE THAT ARE APPOINTED TO DIE" (PSALM 79:11).

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, Mon., Sept. 30, 1974

## photo told

By Carolyn Toll

An Evanston mother said Sunday that Southeast Asian agents have asked her to pay "in excess of \$25,000" for a photo of her Air Force pilot son reportedly made 80 days ago in Laos.

"I am drafting a letter to President Ford to demand—not request—a face to face meeting to enlist the government's support in finding my son if he should still be alive," said Mrs. Jean MacDonald, of 1402 Ridge, in the north suburb. Her son, George, was shot down over Laos on Dec. 21, 1972, and has since been reported as missing in action by the Air Force.

Mrs. MacDonald returned to Chicago Saturday from Mexico City where she had flown to meet with two unidentified Oriental men who showed her a picture of her son. She said they would not let her have the picture.

To get possession of the picture and a letter and fingerprints of her son, who the men claimed was still alive, Mrs. MacDonald would have to raise a sum she described as "in excess of \$25,000 but less than \$500,000" and give it to the unidentified men. Mrs. MacDonald said she was told she must not dis-

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close the amount of money the men asked for.

"My heart almost stopped when I saw that picture and recognized George, because he looked terrible," said Mrs. MacDonald, who flew to Mexico to see the picture only weeks after she was released from a hospital where she had been treated for a heart condition.

"He looked gaunt, with his shoulder bones protruding, his eyes bulging with dark circles below and his arms around two other men as if he was being held up by them," she said. Mrs. MacDonald said the two other men looked like Americans and might well be some of the other missing crew members from her son's plane.

"In the picture, George had a long beard, something he never wore, so he lived at least long enough to grow that beard and lose that much weight," she said. She said the Oriental men did not promise to have her son released but insisted that payment for the picture, letter and fingerprints was "the first step toward that."

"I believe it is the responsibility of our government to hear what I've been through and know all I've been told," said Mrs. MacDonald, mother of eight sons. "With all the giveaway programs we have, our government could insist on enforcement of the Geneva

agreements which would let us go into Laos and search for any of our men still being held there alive."

If the information given her is correct, Mrs. MacDonald said, it means that Emmet Kay — recently released by the Pathet Lao — was not the last American prisoner of war in Indochina.

Mrs. MacDonald was accompanied to the Mexico meeting by the Rev. Paul D. Lindstrom of suburban Prospect Heights, head of the Remember-the-Pueblo Committee, and Philip Bennett, associate director of the Christian Defense League in the Chicago area.

Mr. Lindstrom has been saying for years that the Communists are holding more American PWs in Indochina, but his reports have been discredited in official circles. At one point, he tried to recruit a private army to spring PWs from captivity.

Mr. Lindstrom was the contact used by the Southeast Asians to inform Mrs. MacDonald she could fly to Mexico to see the picture of her son, who would now be 25.

Mr. Lindstrom said he had met with the agents over the last two years in Paris and Algiers in hopes of obtaining proof that MacDonald was still alive, before arranging last week's Mexico City meeting.

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